Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 270625 ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /004 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:SFROMOWITZ:DJW
APPROVED BY EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
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-----085784 120318Z /62

R 111831Z NOV 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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FOR WORTZEL FROM SCHMIDT - REPLY FOR EUR/EE ONLY, 3 COPIES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

- 1. THANKS FOR YOUR CABLE (BELGRADE 7825) ON ZAGREB FALL FAIR WHICH REACHED US BEFORE THE INTERAGENCY MEETING. SAM AND I MET WITH JACK SCANLON, GEORGE FORNER AND CHUCK CLARK OF USIA, BOB DAY OF EB/OCA AND HERB LINDSTROM OF COMMERCE. (WE TRIED TO GET HIGHER-LEVEL COMMERCE PARTICIPATION, BUT LINDSTROM SAID NO ONE WAS WILLING TO COME.) THE MEETING MADE ONE THING PERFECTLY CLEAR: THE PROBLEM FOR FY 78 LIES WITH COMMERCE, NOT USIA.
- 2. SCANLON INDICATED THAT USIA HAS A VERY FLEXIBLE AND FORTHCOMING POSITION RE THIS YEAR'S PARTICIPATION, BUT WISHES TO MAKE THE FY 78 ZFF A SUCCESSFUL BRIDGE TO WHAT THEY HOPE WILL BE A STRICTLY COMMERCIAL U.S. PRESENCE, WITHOUT USIA, IN FY 79 AND BEYOND. IN ORDER CONFIDENTIAL

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TO ENSURE THAT USIA EXHIBIT CENTERPIECE WILL BE EFFECTIVE AND BETTER THAN THE ADMITTEDLY POOR FY 77 ENTRY, SCANLON INDICATED USIA PREPARED TO GO BEYOND REINHARDT'S \$50,000 COMMITMENT, PERHAPS EVEN AS MUCH AS \$150,000. HOWEVER, THEY DO NOT WISH TO "SQUANDER" THIS MONEY BY PAYING FOR PERSONNEL AND SERVICES WHICH COMMERCE SHOULD SUPPLY.

FURTHERMORE, THEY PLAN TO CREATE A CENTERPIECE SPECIFICALLY FOR THE ZFF RATHER THAN BORROWING AN ALREADY EXISTING EXHIBIT FROM ELSEWHERE. THEY WOULD BE PLEASED TO GET SUGGESTIONS FOR A THEME FROM BELGRADE/ZAGREB AND COMMERCE. THEY NEED SUFFICIENT LEAD TIME FOR THIS, AND INSIST THAT JANUARY 1 IS THE ABSOLUTE LATEST FOR STARTING WORK ON THEIR EXHIBIT.

3. COMMERCE, ON THE OTHER HAND, INTENDS TO LIMIT ITSELF TO SUPPLYING TWO VTRS (PACKAGING AND FOOD PROCESSING) AND TO SUPPLYING AN EXHIBIT MANAGER FOR "SEVERAL WEEKS". (LETTER TO THIS EFFECT, FROM WEIL TO AMBASSADOR--BUT DRAFTED BY THE OIM MAFIA--SHOULD BE GOING OUT TODAY.) LINDSTROM WAS TOTALLY UNCOOPERA-TIVE AND UNSYMPATHETIC TO THE FACT THAT WITHOUT COMMERCE'S SUPPORT FOR THE EMBASSY/CONSULATE RECRUITMENT EFFORT, THERE WOULD BE NO POSSIBILITY OF MAKING FY 78 ZFF A COMMERCIAL SUCCESS. HE AND OTHERS IN OIM REGARD WEIL'S COMMITMENT AS BEING VERY LIMITED, AND ARE DETERMINED TO DO NO MORE. WE USED THE EXAMPLE OF POZNAN--WHERE COMMERCE (BEWT) DID ITS BEST TO BACKSTOP THE EFFORTS OF THE EMBASSY TO STAGE A SUCCESSFUL HORIZONTAL EXHIBITION--TO ARGUE FOR MORE SUPPORT FOR ZAGREB.

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- 4. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS LITTLE SYMPATHY FROM EITHER COMMERCE OR USIA FOR THE MULTI-YEAR APPROACH OR FOR AN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN THE "USA PAVILION," WE PRESSED THE IDEA THAT THE ONLY WAY TO REALLY TEST THE ZFF'S COMMERCIAL VIABILITY IN FUTURE YEARS WAS TO CREATE A FAVORABLE IMAGE IN FY 78 ON WHICH WE COULD BUILD IN THE FUTURE. (THE SPECIFIC ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION REGARDING LEGAL PROBLEMS WITH THE MULTI-YEAR APPROACH IS THAT COMMERCE CANNOT AND WILL NOT COMMIT ITSELF TO FUTURE FUNDING BEYOND FY 78. HOWEVER, THERE APPEARS TO BE NO REASON WHY THE LETTERS CANNOT SOLICIT PRIVATE COMPANY INVOLVEMENT ON A MULTI-YEAR BASIS AS LONG AS THERE IS NO PROMISE OF USG FUNDING. I REALIZE THIS MAY NOT BE TERRIBLY HELPFUL.)
- 5. WE WILL DO OUR BEST BACK HERE TO MOVE COMMERCE OFF ITS UNCOOPERATIVE STAND, BUT IT APPEARS TO ME THAT THE BEST OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE COMMERCE'S SUPPORT WILL BE WEIL'S TRIP TO BELGRADE AROUND DECEMBER 2. (SEE SEPTEL.) I THINK WEIL WOULD BE SYMPATHETIC TO THE ARGUMENT THAT HIS COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FY 78 ZFF WAS NOT INTENDED AS

MERELY A GIFT TWO VTRS AND THEN ABANDONMENT OF THE PROJECT. THERE ARE VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES FOR BACK-STOPPING THAT CAN BE EXPLORED, INCLUDING SUPPORT FROM THE VIENNA TRADE CENTER (WHICH IS UNDER BEWT) OR THE MILAN TRADE CENTER (WHICH WILL BECOME AN INTERNATIONAL MARKETING CENTER FOR OIM NEXT OCTOBER.)

6. FINALLY, I THINK THE PERFORMANCE OF OIM IN INTERPRETING WEIL'S COMMITMENT TO THE AMBASSADOR IS YET ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE THAT AS LONG AS YUGOSLAVIA REMAINS IN OIM IT WILL BE TREATED AS A THIRD-PRIORITY COUNTRY. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a **Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED**

Concepts: n/a

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 11-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE270625
Document Source: Concept History: Concept H

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: SFROMOWITZ:DJW

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770418-0512

Format: TEL

From: STATE

Handling Restrictions:

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771168/aaaacfyd.tel

Line Count: 128 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation Codes. Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 59f4111c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ORIGIN EUR

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 30-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 618690 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

TAGS: OGEN
To: BELGRADE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/59f4111c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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